

“Weak yet strong” restrictions of Hindman’s Finite Sums Theorem

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Abstract

We present a natural restriction of Hindman’s Finite Sums Theorem that admits a simple combinatorial proof (one that does not also prove the full Finite Sums Theorem) and low computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic upper bounds, yet implies the existence of the Turing Jump, thus realizing the only known lower bound for the full Finite Sums Theorem. This is the first example of this kind. In fact we isolate a rich family of similar restrictions of Hindman’s Theorem with analogous properties.

1 Introduction and Motivation

The following question was asked by Hindman, Leader and Strauss in [8]:

Question 12. Is there a proof that whenever \mathbf{N} is finitely coloured there is a sequence x_1, x_2, \dots such that all x_i and all $x_i + x_j$ ($i \neq j$) have the same colour, that does not also prove the Finite Sums Theorem?

The theorem referred to as the Finite Sums Theorem is the famous result of Hindman’s (the original proof is in [7]) stating that whenever \mathbf{N} is finitely coloured there is a sequence x_1, x_2, \dots such that all finite non-empty sums of distinct elements from the sequence have the same colour. We will sometimes refer to this statement as Hindman’s Theorem, or the full Hindman’s Theorem.

In this paper we present some results that are related to Question 12 above. We isolate a rich family \mathcal{F} of natural restrictions of the Finite Sums Theorem with the following two properties:

1. Each member of the family \mathcal{F} admits a simple combinatorial proof that does not establish Hindman’s Theorem, but
2. Each member of a non-trivial sub-family of \mathcal{F} is strong in the sense of having the same computability-theoretic lower bounds that are known to hold for Hindman’s Theorem.

The simplicity of the proof referred to in point (1) above is evident in the sense that all members of \mathcal{F} admit a proof consisting in a finite iteration of the Infinite Ramsey’s Theorem and an application of some classical theorem from Finite Combinatorics. Yet, much more detailed information can be obtained by using the tools of Computability Theory and Reverse Mathematics, the areas where the lower bound mentioned in point (2) above come from.

The strength of the Finite Sums Theorem is indeed a major open problem in these areas (see [12], Question 9). A huge gap remains between the known lower and upper bounds on the

computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic strength of Hindman’s Theorem [7]. Blass, Hirst and Simpson in [2] established the following lower and upper bounds thirty years ago:

1. There exists a computable coloring $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow 2$ such that any solution to Hindman’s Theorem for c computes \emptyset' , the first Turing Jump of the computable sets.
2. For every computable coloring $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow 2$ there exists a solution set computable from $\emptyset^{(\omega)}$, the ω -th Turing Jump of the computable sets.

By a “solution to Hindman’s Theorem for coloring c ” we mean an infinite set H such that all finite non-empty sums of elements from H have the same c -color. As often is the case, the above computability-theoretic results have direct corollaries in Reverse Mathematics (see [15, 9] for excellent introductions to the topic). Letting HT denote the natural formalization of Hindman’s Finite Sums Theorem in the language of arithmetic, the only known upper and lower bounds on the logical strength of the full Finite Sums Theorem are the following (again from [2]):

$$\text{ACA}_0^+ \geq \text{HT} \geq \text{ACA}_0.$$

Recall that ACA_0 is equivalent to $\text{RCA}_0 + \forall X \exists Y (Y = X')$ and that ACA_0^+ is equivalent to $\text{RCA}_0 + \forall X \exists Y (Y = X^{(\omega)})$. Note that restricting the consideration to 2-colorings is inessential, since HT_2 already implies ACA_0 .

Recently there has been some interest in the computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic strength of restrictions of Hindman’s Theorem (see [10, 5, 4]). While [10] deals with a restriction on the sequence of finite sets in the Finite Unions formulation of Hindman’s Theorem, both [5] and [4] deal with restrictions on the types of sums that are guaranteed to be colored the same color.

Blass conjectured in [1] that the complexity of Hindman’s Theorem might grow with the length of the sums for which homogeneity is guaranteed. Let us denote by $\text{HT}_r^{\leq n}$ the restriction of the Finite Sums Theorem to colorings with r colors and sums of at most n terms. The conjecture discussed in [1] is then that the complexity of $\text{HT}_r^{\leq n}$ is growing with n .

The main result in [5] is that the above described \emptyset' lower bound known to hold for the full Hindman’s Theorem already applies to its restriction to 4 colors and to sums of at most 3 terms ($\text{HT}_4^{\leq 3}$ in the notation introduced above). On the other hand, note that no upper bound other than the upper bound for full Hindman’s Theorem is known to hold for this restricted version, and the same is true for $\text{HT}_2^{\leq 2}$, the restriction to sums of at most 2 terms! This is obviously related to Question 12 of [8] quoted above.

On the other hand, the variants studied by Hirst in [10] (called Hilbert’s Theorem) and by the author in [4] (called the Adjacent Hindman’s Theorem) do admit simple proofs, but are very weak and provably fall short of hitting the known lower bounds for the full Hindman’s Theorem (they are provable, respectively, from the Infinite Pigeonhole Principle and from Ramsey’s Theorem for pairs).

By contrast, the family of natural restriction of the Finite Sums Theorems introduced in the present paper has members that are “weak” in the sense of admitting easy proofs yet “strong” with respect to computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic lower bounds.

In terms of Computability Theory and Reverse Mathematics, the properties of our family of restrictions of the Finite Sums Theorem are summarized as follows: *All* members of the family have upper bounds in the Arithmetical Hierarchy for computable instances and proofs in ACA_0 . Yet *many* members of such family imply the existence of the Turing Jump. In terms of Reverse Mathematics, they imply ACA_0 .

2 A family of restrictions of the Finite Sums Theorem

The present section is organized as follows. We first formulate, in section 2.1, a particular restriction of the Finite Sums Theorem, called the Hindman-Brauer Theorem, and prove it by a simple finite iteration of the Infinite Ramsey's Theorem plus finitary combinatorial tools (Theorem 2). The argument is indeed general and in section 2.2 we describe the family of statements that can be proved by exactly the same proof. This proof is obviously much simpler than any known proof of the Finite Sums Theorem and does not establish the latter. In the last subsection (Section ??) we extract computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic upper bounds for each member of the family.

2.1 An example: the Hindman-Brauer Theorem

We start with a particular example. We will use the following theorem, due to Alfred Brauer [3], which is a joint strengthening of Van Der Waerden's [16] and Schur's [14] theorems.

Theorem 1 (Brauer's Theorem, [3]). *For all $r, \ell, s \geq 1$ there exists $n = n(r, \ell, s)$ such that if $g : [1, n] \rightarrow r$ then there exists $a, b > 0$ such that $\{a, a+b, a+2b, \dots, a+(\ell-1)b\} \cup \{sb\} \subseteq [1, n]$ is monochromatic.*

Let $B : \mathbb{N}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ denote the witnessing function for Brauer's Theorem. For $n = 2^{t_1} + \dots + 2^{t_k}$ with $t_1 < \dots < t_k$ let $\lambda(n) = t_1$ and $\mu(n) = t_k$. The following Apartness Condition is crucial in what follows.

Definition 1 (Apartness Condition). *We say that a set X satisfies the Apartness Condition (or is apart) if for all $x, x' \in X$, if $x < x'$ then $\mu(x) < \lambda(x')$.*

Note that the Apartness Condition is inherited by subsets. If a is a positive integer and B is a set we denote by $FS^a(B)$ (resp. $FS^{\leq a}(B)$) the set of sums of exactly (resp. at most) a distinct elements from B . More generally, if A and B are sets we denote by $FS^A(B)$ the set of all sums of j -many distinct terms from B , for all $j \in A$. Thus, e.g., $FS^{\{1,2,3\}}(B)$ is another name for $FS^{\leq 3}(B)$. By $FS(B)$ we denote $FS^{\mathbb{N}}(B)$, the set of all non-empty finite sums of distinct elements of B . By RT_r^n we denote the Infinite Ramsey's Theorem for r -colorings of n -tuples.

Theorem 2 (Hindman-Brauer Theorem). *For all $c : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2$ there exists an infinite and apart set $H \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ such that for some $a, b > 0$ the set $FS^{\{a, a+b, a+2b\} \cup \{b\}}(H)$ is monochromatic.*

Proof. Let $c : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow 2$ be given. Let $k = B(2, 3, 1)$. Consider the following construction.

Let H_0 be an infinite (computable) set satisfying the Apartness Condition, e.g. $\{2^t : t \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Let $H_1 \subseteq H_0$ be an infinite homogeneous set for c , witnessing RT_2^1 relative to H_0 .

Let $f_2 : [\mathbb{N}]^2 \rightarrow 2$ be defined as $f_2(x, y) = c(x+y)$. Let $H_2 \subseteq H_1$ be an infinite homogeneous set for f_2 , witnessing RT_2^2 relative to H_1 .

Let $f_3 : [\mathbb{N}]^3 \rightarrow 2$ be defined as $f_3(x, y, z) = c(x+y+z)$. Let $H_3 \subseteq H_2$ be an infinite homogeneous set for f_3 , witnessing RT_2^3 relative to H_2 .

We continue in this fashion for k steps. This determines a finite sequence of infinite sets H_0, H_1, \dots, H_k such that

$$H_0 \supseteq H_1 \supseteq H_2 \supseteq \dots \supseteq H_k.$$

Each H_i satisfies the Apartness Condition. Furthermore, for each $i \in [1, k]$ we have that $FS^i(H_j)$ is monochromatic under c for all $j \in [i, k]$. Also, $FS^i(H_k)$ is monochromatic for each $i \in [1, k]$. Let c_i be the color of $FS^i(H_k)$ under c .

The construction can be seen as defining a coloring $C : [1, k] \rightarrow 2$, setting $C(i) = c_i$. Since $k = B(2, 3, 1)$, by Brauer's Theorem there exists $a, b > 0$ in $[1, k]$ such that $\{a, a+b, a+2b\} \cup \{b\} \subseteq [1, k]$ is monochromatic for C . Let $i < 2$ be the color. Then $FS^{\{a, a+b, a+2b\} \cup \{b\}}(H_k)$ is monochromatic of color i for the original coloring c . \square

A comment is in order: the above proof is obviously *much simpler* than any known proof establishing Hindman's Theorem. It is also obvious that it does not establish the full Finite Sums Theorem. Note that nothing in the above construction is special about 2 colors and 3-terms arithmetic progressions.

2.2 A family of restrictions of the Finite Sums Theorem admitting simple proofs

The proof of Theorem 2 is easily adapted to arbitrary values r for number of colors and ℓ for the length of the arithmetic progression. More importantly one can substitute Brauer's Theorem by *virtually any* theorem about finite colorings of numbers from the literature (Schur's Theorem [14], Van der Waerden's Theorem [16], Folkman's Theorem [13, 6], just to name a few), yielding a rich family of Hindman-type theorems.

The general form of the restrictions of the Finite Sums Theorem obtained by the proof of Theorem 2 is the following:

For all $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow r$ there exists an infinite and apart $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$ and there exists a finite A , satisfying some specific conditions, such that $FS^A(H)$ is monochromatic.

For each set $A \subseteq \mathbf{N}$ and positive integer $r > 0$, we let HT_r^A denote such a statement. We describe the family by presenting a list of some of its typical members, grouped by sub-families. The general pattern will be clear enough.

Schur Family:

For each positive integer r let $HT_r^{\{a, b, a+b\}}$ denote the following statement.

Whenever \mathbf{N} is colored in r colors there is an infinite and apart set $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\} <$ and positive integers a, b such that all elements of $FS^{\{a, b, a+b\}}(\{x_1, x_2, \dots\})$ have the same color.

Van der Waerden Family:

For each pair of positive integers r, ℓ let $HT_r^{\{a, b, a+b, \dots, a+(\ell-1)b\}}$ denote the following statement.

Whenever \mathbf{N} is colored in r colors there is an infinite and apart set $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\} <$ and positive integers a, b such that all elements of $FS^{\{a, a+b, a+2b, \dots, a+(\ell-1)b\}}(\{x_1, x_2, \dots\})$ have the same color.

Brauer Family:

For each pair of positive integers r, ℓ , let $HT_r^{\{a, b, a+b, \dots, a+(\ell-1)b\} \cup \{b\}}$ denote the following statement.

Whenever \mathbf{N} is colored in r colors there is an infinite and apart set $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\} <$ and positive integers a, b such that all elements of $FS^{\{a, a+b, a+2b, \dots, a+(\ell-1)b\} \cup \{b\}}(\{x_1, x_2, \dots\})$ have the same color.

Folkman Family:

For each pair of positive integers r, ℓ , let $\text{HT}_r^{FS(\{i_1, \dots, i_\ell\})}$ denote the following statement.

Whenever \mathbf{N} is colored in r colors there is an infinite and apart set $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}_<$ and positive integers i_1, \dots, i_ℓ such that all elements of $FS^{FS(\{i_1, \dots, i_\ell\})}(\{x_1, x_2, \dots\})$ have the same color.

2.3 Computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic upper bounds

The observable simplicity of the proof of Theorem 2 can be measured by extracting from it computability-theoretic and proof-theoretic upper bounds. From the finite iteration argument given above one can glean upper bounds that are better than the known upper bounds for the full Finite Sums Theorem.

To assess the Computability and Reverse Mathematics corollaries, it may be convenient to reformulate the general argument of Theorem 2 as follows (again, we only give the details for the case of the Hindman-Brauer Theorem):

Second proof of Theorem 2. Let n be a positive integer. Given $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow 2$ let $g_n : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow 2^n$ be defined as follows:

$$g_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \langle c(x_1), c(x_1 + x_2), \dots, c(x_1 + \dots + x_n) \rangle.$$

Fix an infinite and apart set H_0 of positive integers. By $\text{RT}_{2^n}^n$ relativized to H_0 we get an infinite apart set H monochromatic for g_n . Let the color be $\sigma = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$, a binary sequence of length n . Then, for each $i \in [1, n]$, g_n restricted to $FS^{=i}(H)$ is monochromatic of color c_i . The sequence σ is a coloring of n in 2 colors. If $n = B(2, 3, 1)$ then, by the finite Brauer's Theorem, there exists $a, b > 0$ in such that $\{a, a + b, a + 2b\} \cup \{b\} \subseteq [1, n]$ and

$$c_a = c_b = c_{a+b} = c_{a+2b}.$$

Then $FS^{\{a, a+b, a+2b, b\}}(H)$ is monochromatic of color c_a . □

The above argument shows that $\text{RT}_{2^{B(2,3,1)}}^{B(2,3,1)}$ implies the Hindman-Brauer Theorem $\text{HT}_2^{\{a, a+b, a+2b\} \cup \{b\}}$. The difference from the previously given argument is that we have only used one instance of Ramsey's Theorem, albeit for a larger number of colours.

We can then quote the following classical results of Jockusch's about upper bounds on the computability-theoretic content of Ramsey's Theorem (see [11]).

Theorem 3 (Jockusch, [11]). *Every computable $f : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow r$ has an infinite Π_n^0 homogeneous set.*

Theorem 4 (Jockusch, [11]). *Every computable $f : [\mathbf{N}]^n \rightarrow r$ has an infinite homogeneous set H such that $H' \leq_T \emptyset^{(n)}$.*

Then we have the following proposition as an immediate corollary, where \leq_T denotes Turing reducibility.

Proposition 1. *Every computable $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow 2$ has an infinite and apart set H such that for some $a, b > 0$ the set $FS^{\{a, b, a+b, a+2b\}}(H)$ is monochromatic and such that $H' \leq_T \emptyset^{(B(2,3,1))}$.*

Analogously we get arithmetical upper bounds for the other theorems admitting a similar proof, some of which are apparently quite strong (e.g., the one derived from Folkman's Theorem described above). This should be contrasted with the fact that there are no similar upper bounds on the computability-theoretic content of Hindman's Theorem, not even when restricted to sums of at most two terms! Again, for the latter two theorems, the only upper bound for general computable solutions is $\emptyset^{(\omega)}$.

We now comment on Reverse Mathematics implications. The argument described above is formalizable in ACA_0 (note that most of the finite combinatorial theorems quoted above are provable in RCA_0). We then get, for every standard $k \in \mathbf{N}$, that

$$\text{RCA}_0 \vdash \text{RT}_{2^k}^{B(2,k,1)} \rightarrow \text{HT}_2^{\{a, a+b, \dots, a+(k-1)b\} \cup \{b\}}.$$

Thus we have the following proposition.

Proposition 2. *For each standard $k \in \mathbf{N}$:*

$$\text{ACA}_0 \vdash \text{HT}_2^{\{a, a+b, a+2b, \dots, a+(k-1)b\} \cup \{b\}}.$$

Again, this should be contrasted with the $\text{ACA}_0^{(\omega)}$ upper bound that is known to hold for the full Finite Sums Theorem, as well as for its restriction to sums of at most two terms.

Obviously, similar proof-theoretic upper bounds hold for many other members of the family by the same argument, as long as the underlying finite combinatorial principle does not itself require strong axioms.

3 A lower bound on the Hindman-Brauer Theorem

Let K denote the (computably enumerable but not computable) Halting Set or, equivalently, the first Turing jump \emptyset' . We show that there exists a computable coloring $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow 2$ such that K is computable from any solution H of the Hindman-Brauer Theorem $\text{HT}_2^{\{a, a+b, a+2b, b\}}$ for the instance c , i.e., H is infinite and apart and for some $a, b > 0$, the set $FS^{\{a, a+b, a+2b, b\}}(H)$ is monochromatic.

We adapt the beautiful proof of the lower bound for the full Hindman's Theorem by Blass, Hirst and Simpson (Theorem 2.2 in ??). Gaps and short gaps of numbers are defined as in [2]. We recall the definitions for convenience. Fix an enumeration of the computably enumerable set K and denote by $K[k]$ the set enumerated in k steps of computation by this algorithm. If $n = 2^{t_1} + \dots + 2^{t_k}$ with $t_1 < \dots < t_k$ we refer to pairs (t_i, t_{i+1}) as the *gaps* of n . A gap (a, b) of n is *short in n* if there exists $x \leq a$ such that $x \in K$ but $x \notin K[b]$. A gap (a, b) of n is *very short in n* if there exists $x \leq a$ such that $x \in K[\mu(n)]$ but $x \notin K[b]$. A gap of n that is short in n is called a *short gap of n* . Let $SG(n)$ denote the set of short gaps of n . A gap of n that is very short in n is called a *short gap of n* . Let $VSG(n)$ denote the set of very short gaps of n . Notice that given n one can effectively compute $VSG(n)$ but not $SG(n)$.

Theorem 5. *There exists a computable coloring $c : \mathbf{N} \rightarrow 2$ such that if $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$ is a solution to the Hindman-Brauer Theorem for instance c then K is computable from H .*

Proof. Consider the following computable coloring of \mathbf{N} in 2 colors.

$$c(n) = VSG(n) \pmod{2}.$$

Let $H \subseteq \mathbf{N}$ and $a, b > 0$ be such that H is infinite, satisfies the Apartness Condition, and is such that all sums of size $a, b, a + b, a + 2b$ of elements from H have the same color under c .

Claim 1. *For every $m \in FS^a(H)$, $SG(m)$ is even.*

Proof. Pick n in $FS^b(H)$ so large that the following three points are satisfied:

1. $\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$,
2. for all $x \leq \mu(m)$, $x \in K$ if and only if $x \in K[\lambda(n)]$,
3. $\mu(m+n) = \mu(n)$.

This choice is legitimate since H satisfies the Apartness Condition and is infinite. Since $m \in FS^a(H)$ there exists $t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_a$ elements of H such that $m = t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_a$. Since H satisfies the Apartness Condition, we have that $\mu(m) = \mu(t_a)$ and $\lambda(m) = \lambda(t_1)$. (Analogous equations hold for sums of type b , $a+b$, $a+2b$). Now observe that elements of $FS^b(H)$ are unbounded with respect to their λ -projection, i.e. for all d there exists $q \in FS^b(H)$ such that $\lambda(q) > d$. This follows from the fact that H satisfies the Apartness Condition and by the previous observations on λ -projections of sums. So requirements 1 and 2 above can be met. To meet requirement 3 just observe that if $m = t_1 + \dots + t_a$ with $t_1 < \dots < t_a$ we can pick an $n \in FS^b(H)$, say $n = t'_1 + \dots + t'_b$ with $t'_1 < \dots < t'_b$, such that $\mu(m) = \mu(t_a) < \lambda(t'_1) = \lambda(n)$ because H is apart.

We now compute the number of very short gaps of $m+n$, arguing as in [2]. We consider separately the gaps of m , the gaps of n and the gap $(\mu(m), \lambda(n))$.

The gap $(\mu(m), \lambda(n))$ is not very short, by choice of n (item (2) above).

A gap of n is very short in $m+n$ if and only if it is very short in n , since $\mu(m+n) = \mu(n)$.

A gap (a, b) of m is very short in $m+n$ if and only if it is short (not necessarily very short) as a gap of m : Suppose that (a, b) is a gap of m very short in $m+n$. By definition there exists $x \leq a$ such that $x \in K[\mu(m+n)]$ but $x \notin K[b]$. Then there exists $x \leq a$ such that $x \in K$ but $x \notin K[b]$ hence (a, b) is short in m . For the other direction suppose (a, b) short in m , that is there exists $x \leq a$ such that $x \in K$ but $x \notin K[b]$. Then by choice of n ($\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$ by item (1) above and $\lambda(n)\mu(n)$) we have that $x \leq a$ and $x \in K$ implies $x \in \mu(n)$. But $\mu(n) = \mu(m+n)$ by item (3) above. Hence (a, b) is very short in m .

Therefore we have the following equation:

$$VSG(m+n) = SG(m) + VSG(n).$$

By hypothesis on H , $VSG(m+n)$ and $VSG(n)$ have the same parity, since $m+n \in FS^{a+b}(H)$. □

Claim 2. *For every $m \in FS^b(H)$, $SG(m)$ is even.*

Proof. Pick n in $FS^a(H)$ so large that the following three points are satisfied:

1. $\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$,
2. for all $x \leq \mu(m)$, $x \in K$ if and only if $x \in K[\lambda(n)]$,
3. $\mu(m+n) = \mu(n)$.

This choice is legitimate since H satisfies the Apartness Condition and is infinite. Then argue as previously. We end up with

$$VSG(m+n) = SG(m) + VSG(n).$$

By hypothesis on H , $VSG(m+n)$ and $VSG(n)$ have the same parity, since $m+n \in FS^{a+b}(H)$. □

Claim 3. For every $m \in FS^{a+b}(H)$, $SG(m)$ is even.

Proof. Pick n in $FS^{=b}(H)$ so large that the following three points are satisfied:

1. $\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$,
2. for all $x \leq \mu(m)$, $x \in K$ if and only if $x \in K[\lambda(n)]$,
3. $\mu(m+n) = \mu(n)$.

This choice is legitimate since H satisfies the Apartness Condition and is infinite. Then argue as previously. We end up with

$$VSG(m+n) = SG(m) + VSG(n).$$

By hypothesis on H , $VSG(m+n)$ and $VSG(n)$ have the same parity, since $m+n \in FS^{a+2b}(H)$. \square

Claim 4. For all $m \in FS^a(H)$ and all $n \in FS^b(H)$ such that $\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$ we have:

$$\forall x \leq \mu(m) (x \in K \leftrightarrow x \in K[\lambda(n)]).$$

Proof. By way of contradiction suppose that $(\mu(m), \lambda(n))$ is short. Then:

$$SG(m+n) = SG(m) + SG(n) + 1.$$

But $SG(m+n), SG(n), SG(m)$ are all even by the previous claims. Contradiction. \square

We now describe an algorithm showing that K is computable from H . Given an input x , use the oracle to find an $m \in FS^a(H)$ such that $x \leq \mu(m)$ and an $n \in FS^b(H)$ such that $m < n$ and $\mu(m) < \lambda(n)$.

Then run the algorithm enumerating K for $\lambda(n)$ steps to decide membership of $x \in K[\lambda(n)]$. By Claim 4 this also decides membership in K . \square

As in [2] a straightforward relativization of the above proof gives the following proposition.

Proposition 3. Over RCA_0 , $HT_2^{\{a,a+b,a+2b\} \cup \{b\}}$ implies ACA_0 .

Note that the above proof works for any member HT_2^A of our family such that A is guaranteed to contain a set of the form $\{x, x+y, x+2y\} \cup \{y\}$ for some positive integers x, y .

4 Conclusions

We have introduced a family of natural restrictions of Hindman's Finite Sums Theorem such that each member of the family admits a fairly simple proof, has arithmetical upper bounds for computable instances, yet many members of the family imply the existence of the Halting Set. These are the first examples with these properties. In fact, Hindman's Theorem restricted to sums of at most 3 terms and 4-colorings $HT_4^{\leq 3}$ shares the same $\emptyset^{(\omega)}$ lower bound (by the main result of [5]) but has no other proof (resp. upper bound) apart from the proof (resp. upper bound) known for the full Finite Sums Theorem. Of all members HT_2^A of our family we know how to prove that they achieve the only lower bounds known for the full Finite Sums Theorem *provided that* the set A of lengths of sums for which homogeneity is guaranteed contains a 3-terms arithmetic progression and its difference. This is the best to our current knowledge but it is an interesting question to characterize the members in the family that imply ACA_0 .

Some members of our family are apparently strong when compared to the family of restrictions of Hindman's Theorem based on the mere number of terms in the sums studied in [5]. Compare, e.g., $\text{HT}_2^{\{a,b,a+b,a+2b,a+3b,\dots,a+100b\}}$ with $\text{HT}_2^{\leq 3}$. Yet this superficial impression might be misleading. It is an easy observation that HT_2^A for an A such that $A \supseteq \{a, 2a\}$ for some $a > 0$ implies $\text{HT}_2^{\leq 2}$. Analogous relations hold for $A \supseteq \{a, 2a, 3a\}$ and $\text{HT}_2^{\leq 3}$. These will be discussed in future work. Yet it doesn't seem obvious to get an implication from those HT^A s and the $\text{HT}^{\leq n}$ s. Many more non-trivial implications can be established and will be reported elsewhere.

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